

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1086

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GE, GW, UR

SUBJECT : MEETING OF SPD LEADERS IN BERLIN

1. SUMMARY: SPD NATIONAL LEADERS MEETING JUNE 22-23
IN WEST BERLIN EVALUATED FIRST YEAR OF QA AND IMPLICATIONS
OF CONCLUSION OF FRG- GDR BASIC AGREEMENT. GOVERNING
MAYOR TOLD COLLEAGUES THAT QA WAS BEING IMPLEMENTED
SATISFACTORILY, AND ANY PROBLEMS WHICH AROSE COULD BE
WORKED OUT WITHOUT RECOURSE TO CONSULTATIONS AMONG
PARTIES TO QA, WHILE WEHNER CAUTIONED THAT INNER- GERMAN
"FRANTERNIZATION" COULD NOT BE EXPECTED IN WAKE OF
RELAXATION OF TENSION. GDR MEDIA PROVIDED UNUSUALLY
FACTURAL COVERAGE OF MEETING, BUT WITH FOCUS ON WEHNER' S
COMMENTS ON OUTLOOK IN INNER- GERMAN RELATIONS AND SPD' S
DECISION NOT TO REVERSE LAENDER MINISTER- PRESIDENTS'
EARLIER DECISION TO EXCLUDE RADICALS FROM PUBLIC SERVICE.
END SUMMARY.

2. SPD HELD TWO- DAY MEETING, JUNE 22-23, OF LEADING
PARTY ORGANS (EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PARTY COUNCIL, AND
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CONTROL COMMISSION) IN RATHAUS SCHOENEBOURG. SPD VICE CHAIRMAN KUEHN PRESIDED AT JUNE 22 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION, WHEREAS VICE CHAIRMAN SCHMIDT LED PARTY COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS JUNE 23, EXCEPT FOR ONE HOUR WHEN PARTY CHAIRMAN BRANDT TOOK PART. (BRANDT SPENT SEVERAL HOURS WITH VISITING ISRAELI LABOR PARTY DELEGATION, BEFORE DEPARTING SAME DAY VIA INTERZONAL TRAIN FOR FRG.) IT WAS CHANCELLOR'S FIRST VISIT TO BERLIN SINCE ELECTION EVE, NOVEMBER 18, 1972 (BERLIN 2032); SPD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LAST MET IN BERLIN JUNE 24, 1972.

3. IN WELCOMING REMARKS TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ SAID QA WAS BEING IMPLEMENTED SATISFACTORILY, AND NO DIFFICULTIES HAD DEVELOPED WHICH REQUIRED FORMAL CONSULTATIONS BY PARTIES TO AGREEMENT. SCHUETZ UNDERSCORED IMPORTANCE OF WEST BERLIN'S " COMPREHENSIVE TIES" WITH FRG, WHICH, IN WAKE OF ADMISSION OF TWO GERMAN STATES TO UN, WOULD REPRESENT WEST BERLIN IN NEW YORK, AS WELL AS IN EAST BERLIN. IN HIS VIEW, IT WAS UP TO EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO ADJUST THEIR PRACTICES TO CORRECT MISINTERPRETATIONS OF THESE TIES. SCHUETZ ALSO VOICED EXPECTATION THAT WEST BERLIN WOULD BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN FRG AND GDR.

4. SPD FRAKTION LEADER WEHNER GAVE MAIN POLITICAL REPORT, ANALYZING FIRST YEAR'S EXPERIENCE WITH QA AND CONSEQUENCES TO BE DRAWN FROM CONCLUSION OF FRG- GDR BASIC TREATY. BEGINNING WITH PREMISE THAT NIXON- BREZHNEV MEETING WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY REINFORCE TREND TOWARDS RELAXATION OF TENSIONS IN EUROPE, WEHNER SAID INNER- GERMAN RELATIONS WOULD PLAY KEY ROLE IN FUTURE EAST- WEST RELATIONS. IMPETUS TOWARDS DETENTE AND CREATION OF BASIS FOR NORMAL INTERCOURSE WITH GDR, HE WARNED, WOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY BRING ABOUT QUICK RESULTS OR " FRATERNIZATION" BETWEEN TWO SEPARATE GERMAN STATES; IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATION WITH GDR WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE, EVEN IF TWO STATES NOW CHOSE TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES PEACEFULLY.

5. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, FEDERAL DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER TOLD PARTY COLLEAGUES THAT MBFR TALKS SHOULD NOT LEAD TO WEAKENING OF NATO. SPD'S FOREIGN POLICY EXPERT, CONFIDENTIAL

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WISCHNEWSKI, REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED PLANNED START OF CSCE TALKS JULY 3 AS PROVIDING " HOPE FOR ALL MEN IN EUROPE." A SUGGESTION TO DISCUSS STEINER/ WIENAND CONTROVERSY WAS QUASHED, ALTHOUGH ISSUE WAS ON EVERYONE'S MIND, AND KUEHN TOLD PRESS THAT SUBJECT MIGHT BE RAISED. IN OTHER ACTIONS, SPD DECIDED TO APPOINT JOHANN STRASSER, JUSO THEORETICIAN, TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE PREVIOUSLY

SELECTED TO DRAW UP LONG- TERM PARTY ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR 1985. LARGE MAJORITY AGREED THAT JANUARY 1973 DECISION OF MINISTER- PRESIDENTS AGAINST HIRING OF RADICALS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY LAENDER IN CONFORMITY WITH PREVAILING LEGAL PROCEDURE-- ONLY TWELVE SPD MEMBERS OF 130- MEMBER COUNCIL SUPPORTED MOTION BY SCHLESWIG- HOLSTEIN REPRESENTATIVES TO SET ASIDE DECISION OF MINISTER- PRESIDENTS IN SPD- CONTROLLED LAENDER.

7. BERLINERS CAN TAKE PARTICULAR COMFORT FROM REMARKS BY FEDERAL FINANCE MINISTER SCHMIDT IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN " ABEND" JUNE 25 IN WHICH HE SAID THAT SPECIAL ATTENTION MUST CONTINUE TO BE GIVEN TO BERLIN, AND THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR CONCERN THAT BONN' S STABILIZATION PROGRAM WOULD HAVE AFFECT ON SPECIAL PREFERENCES FOR BERLIN.

8. GDR MEDIA PROVIDED UNUSUALLY FACTUAL COVERAGE OF REPORTS ABOUT SPD MEETING. GDR RADIO AND NEUES DEUTSCHLAND JUNE 26 REFERRED PARTICULARLY TO WEHNER' S STATEMENT THAT FRATERNIZATION BETWEEN TWO GERMAN STATES WAS UNLIKELY IN WAKE OF CONTINUING DETENTE AND HIS COMMENT ABOUT CONTINUING IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATION. ND ALSO MENTIONED FAILURE OF MOTION TO SET ASIDE MINISTER- PRESIDENT DECISION " AGAINST COMMUNISTS AND OTHER PROGRESSIVE FORCES."

9. COMMENT: HEAD OF CHANCELLERY HERZ TOLD ALLIES JUNE 26 THAT SENAT CONSIDERED GDR REACTION EXTRAORDINARY, INASMUCH AS ITS MEDIA HAVE NOT BEEN WONT TO COVER SUBSTANCE OF MEETINGS HELD BY FEDERAL ORGANIZATIONS IN WEST BERLIN, UNLESS IT WAS TO OBJECT TO THEM. IN THIS INSTANCE, GDR UNDOUBTEDLY WELCOME WEHNER' S CAUTIONING WORDS ABOUT IMPACT OF DETENTE ON INNER- GERMAN RELATIONS, AND PUBLICIZED THEM IN THE HOPE OF DAMPENING EXPECTATIONS OF ITS OWN CITIZENS. KLEIN
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